



National Essential Fish Habitat Summit

May 17-19, 2016 • Annapolis, MD

Workshop Partners

NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation
NOAA Fisheries Office of Science & Technology
Council Coordination Committee
Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum

How did the National EFH Summit create value?

1. Networking and information exchange: diverse participation by councils, regional offices, science centers, headquarters, and public
2. Multiple levels and recipients of value: individual, regional, cross-regional
3. Investment in identifying key questions

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2. **Multiple levels and recipients of value: individual, regional, cross-regional → This summary shares themes of discussion and is not comprehensive of all ideas and takeaways!**
3. Investment in identifying key questions

EFH Summit Objective

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Terms of Reference:

1. Share perspectives on successful approaches to EFH designation and review.
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4. Identify opportunities to integrate habitat information into the fishery management process and ecosystem-based fisheries management.
5. Consider how advances in habitat science can support the effective implementation and use of EFH authorities, and identify opportunities and challenges to aligning habitat science with management needs.

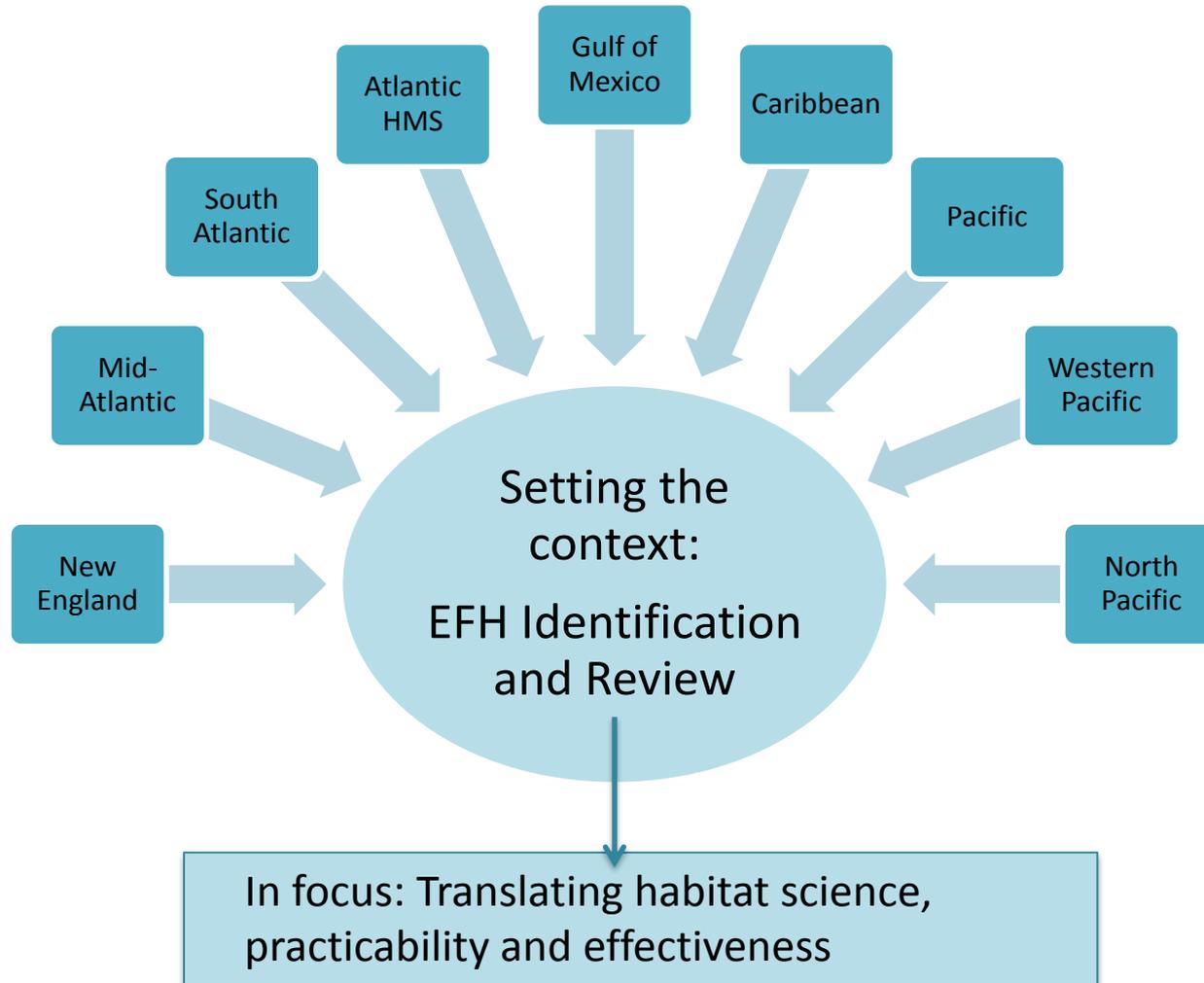
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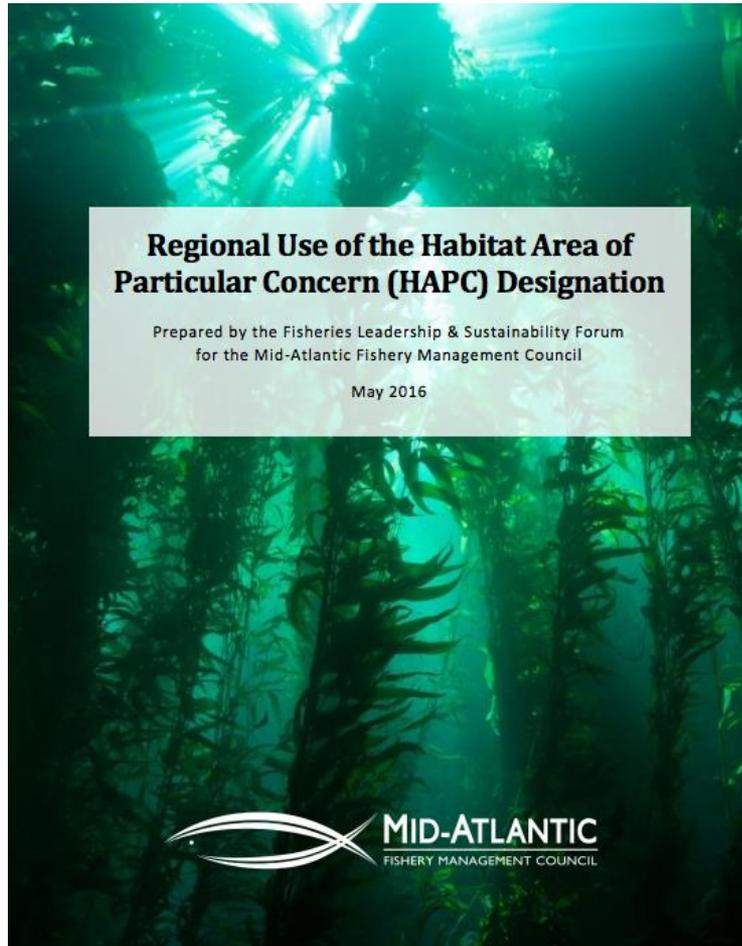
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Day 1: Where are we now?



Regional use of HAPC Designation



Regional Use of the Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) Designation

Prepared by the Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum
for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

May 2016



Available in print and online at www.mafmc.org

Regional approaches to EFH

New England

The New England Fishery Management Council recently completed Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2, a comprehensive review of EFH and HAPC for all Council-managed species and spatial management measures to minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH.

[New England EFH Profile](#)

[Example: Atlantic Cod EFH \(OHA2 Preferred\)](#)

[Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 Summary](#)

[Swept Area Seabed Impact \(SASI\) Approach Summary](#)

Mid-Atlantic

The Council is conducting a project focused on strengthening existing habitat authorities/tools to address threats to fish habitat more effectively, and recently began a review of all EFH components for all Council managed species.

[Mid-Atlantic EFH Profile](#)

[MAFMC Habitat Policies and other resources](#)

[Map: Tilefish EFH \(Depth-defined as 100-300m; no survey data\)](#)

[Map: Adult illex squid \(all data\)](#)

[Map: Adult illex squid \(EFH only\)](#)

Available online at www.fisheriesforum.org

Regional EFH Roundtable: What are you thinking about?

- Defining essential, refining, considering risk/inclusiveness
- Defining adverse impacts
- Looking and thinking ahead
- Organizing EFH information (species, life stage, complex); overlays, hotspots
- Utilizing and combining available information sources
- Capturing variability, trends, change
- Identifying the right scale, resolution
- Integrating EFH and EBFM initiatives
- Considering stock status
- Engaging councils in the process
- Integrating public participation effectively
- Leveraging partnerships and collaborations
- Identifying and using goals and objectives
- Use of HAPCs
- Utilizing advances in technology
- ..and more.

Challenging questions: Translating habitat science, determining practicability, and evaluating effectiveness

- What objectives, tradeoffs, and considerations are shaping your region's implementation of EFH authorities?
- How is practicability discussed and determined in your region?
- What are the opportunities and challenges to evaluating the effectiveness of EFH-related decisions?

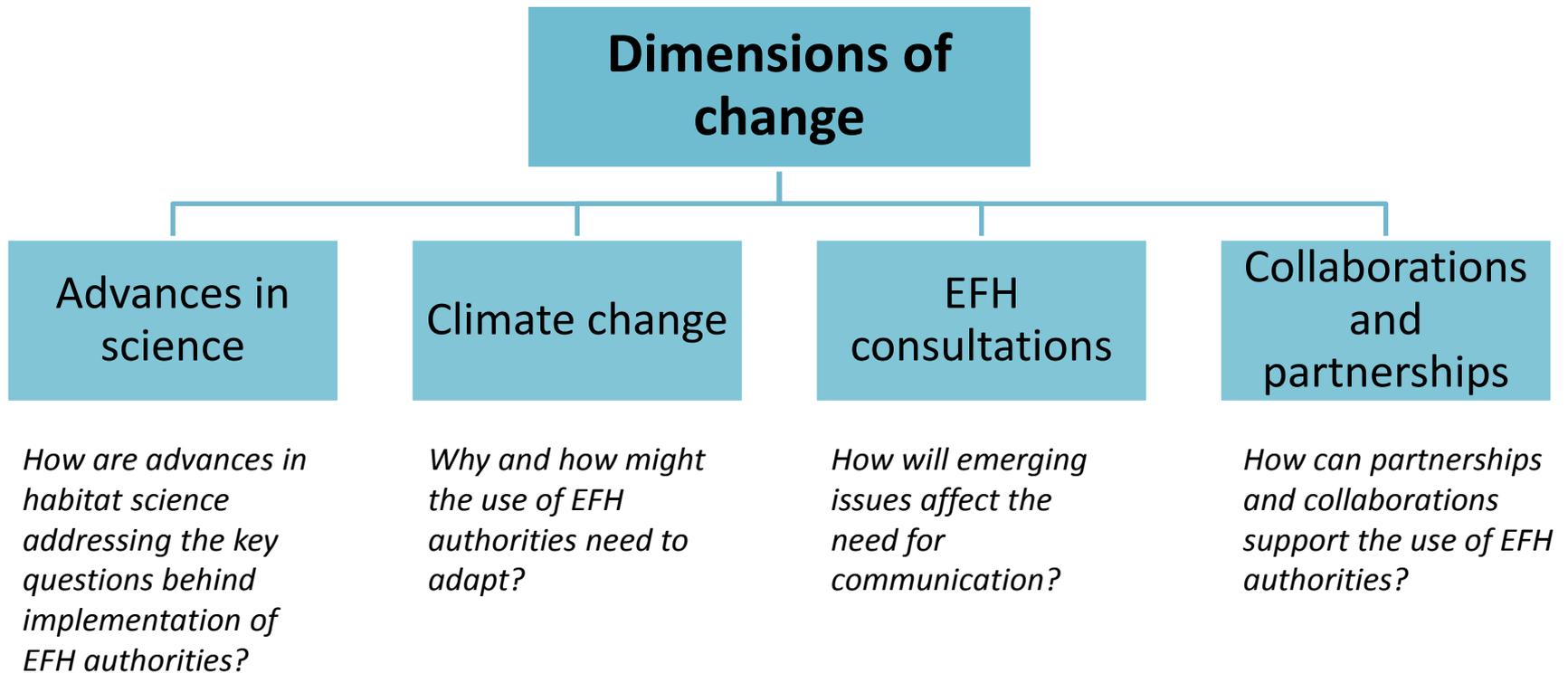
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Day 2: EFH in a changing environment



Climate change and EFH: What's important to consider?

- Mechanisms: habitat location, function, properties, etc.
- EFH consultations: types of projects, impacts and benefits over lifespan
- Planning ahead: Catching up, getting out in front, building resilience?
- Time horizons: EFH identification short term (5-10 years), EFH consultations and recommendations long term (decades)
- Shared ownership: EFH is one piece of climate adaptation (EBFM, management and governance, stock assessment, etc.)
- Focus: strategize, prioritize, etc.
- Leverage: collaborations, partnerships, synergies
- ...and more.

EFH consultations, communication, and emerging issues

- Military training and testing
- Open ocean aquaculture
- Oil, gas, and LNG development/infrastructure
- Acoustic impacts
- Sediment diversion
- Invasive species
- Renewable energy development
- Storm impacts, coastal resilience
- Mining
- Fiber optic cables
- ...and more.

Discussion: information needs, understanding fishery level impacts, considering cumulative impacts, building effective working relationships with action agencies, opportunities for council engagement

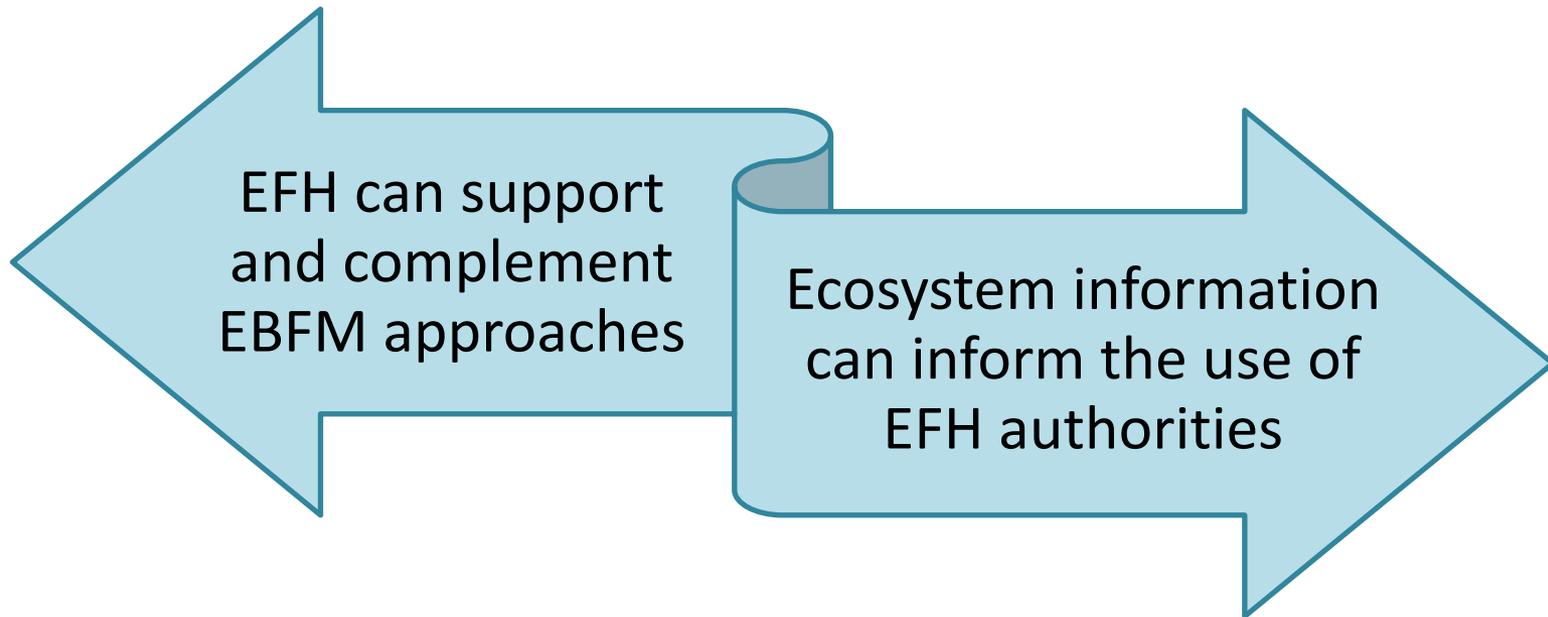
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Intersection of EFH and EBFM: A 2-way street for maintaining productivity



Final discussions

1. What is something new you learned at the EFH Summit that you wouldn't have known otherwise?
2. What new ideas, questions, and opportunities are you interested to continue exploring in your region?
 1. **What topics discussed at the EFH Summit are good opportunities for ongoing conversation and information exchange among regions and partners?**

Themes: ongoing collaboration, communication, exchanging information, ideas, resources, and experience; engaging with councils and each other.



ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

Habitat Protection Reaches Milestone

Participant takeaways and CCC discussion